

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 013411
ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 L-03 SCA-01 SCS-03 CPR-01
/023 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH:BA
APPROVED BY AF-DBBOLEN
AF/EX-PKENNEDY
L/SCA-RDALTON
L/M-HSHAMWELL
OC-RLOCHMILLER (DRAFT)
-----200124Z 105649 /20

O 200104Z JAN 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE NIACT
AMEMBASSY LOME IMMEDIATE NIACT
AMEMBASSY ACCRA IMMEDIATE NIACT
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 013411

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, AMER, PINS, DM

SUBJECT: BENIN COUP ATTEMPT: EMBASSY EFFORTS RE CRO

DAVIS

REF: A) STATE 11170 (NOTAL), B) LAGOS 521 (NOTAL)
C) LOME 160, D) LAGOS 554

1. DEPARTMENT HAS FOLLOWED CLOSELY COTONOU'S CONTINUING
AND PERSISTENT EFFORTS TO SECURE RELEASE OF CRO DAVIS
AND APPROVES OF THESE ACTIONS. IT IS NOT CLEAR IF
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 013411

APPEALS FOR RELEASE OF DAVIS HAVE BEEN BASED SOLELY ON
FACT HE TEMPORARILY ASSIGNED TO EMBASSY COTONOU, AND THUS
ENTITLED TO PROTECTION AND IMMUNITY EQUIVALENT TO THAT OF
PERMANENT STAFF. THIS WAS THE LINE WE SUGGESTED IN REF A.
IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, SUGGEST YOU EMPHASIZE
THAT DAVIS, AN EMPLOYEE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, IS
AMERICAN CITIZEN WITH DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT TEMPORARILY IN

COTONOU AND THUS ENTITLED TO SAME TREATMENT THAT WOULD BE ACCORDED ANY OFFICIAL AMERICAN TEMPORARILY IN COTONOU WHETHER ASSIGNED TO THE EMBASSY OR NOT. FACT DAVIS DOES NOT SPEAK FRENCH IS IRRELEVANT. YOU MAY, IF NECESSARY, EXPLAIN SYSTEM OF ROVERS WHICH WE USE TO BRIDGE GAPS IN ALL AFRICAN POSTS WHEN REGULAR PERSONNEL ARE SICK OR ON LEAVE. WE DO NOT NORMALLY NOTIFY FOREIGN OFFICES OF ARRIVAL OR DEPARTURE OF THESE TEMPORARY REPLACEMENTS WHEN THEIR TOUR OF DUTY IS BRIEF AND THEIR DUTIES DO NOT BRING THEM INTO CONTACT WITH OFFICIALS OF HOST COUNTRY.

2. IT APPEARS THE SURETE IS THE KEY TO THE PRESENT PROBLEM. YOU SHOULD CONTINUE YOUR EFFORTS WITH THEM, PARTICULARLY DURING REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

3. IF YOU BELIEVE IT WOULD HELP DAVIS CASE, YOU SHOULD DELIVER NOTE TO MEA NOTIFYING THEM OF HIS ARRIVAL AND HIS DUTIES, FOLLOWING MODEL OF NOTIFICATION PERMANENT PERSONNEL.

4. WE HAVE INFORMED BENINESE AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON OF DAVIS CASE AND ASKED HIS ASSISTANCE, BUT DOUBT THAT HE WILL BE ABLE COMMUNICATE WITH HIS GOVERNMENT EXPEDITIOUSLY.

5. FOR LAGOS: WE NOTE SUGGESTION REF B THAT NIGERIA IS AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IN BEST POSITION TO NOTIFY GPRB. TWO WAYS OF UTILIZING NIGERIAN INFLUENCE OCCUR TO US. (A) TO REQUEST MEA LAGOS TO INSTRUCT CHARGE TO MAKE APPROACH IN COTONOU. ABSENCE OF NIGERIANS NOTED PARA. 8
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PAGE 03 STATE 013411

REF C MAY INDICATE NIGERIAN CHARGE WOULD NOT BE MUCH HELP. (B) NIGERIAN CONVOCATION OF BENINESE AMBASSADOR IN LAGOS TO REQUEST HIS ASSISTANCE BUT THIS WOULD SUCCEED ONLY IF HE IS IN COMMUNICATION WITH COTONOU. IF, AS INDICATED REF D COTONOU CAN REACH HIM, PERHAPS EMBASSY COTONOU COULD REQUEST MEA TO CALL BENINESE AMBLAGOS AT PREDETERMINED TIME. WOULD WELCOME SUGGESTIONS FROM LAGOS AND COTONOU

6. REF A INFORMS US YOU WISH TDY CRO ASAP. ARRIVAL BY AIR SEEMS MOST FEASIBLE AT PRESENT. PLEASE CONFIRM THAT AIRPORT STILL OPEN, AND THAT WHEN HE ARRIVES EMBASSY WILL BE ABLE MEET HIM AND TAKE HIM TO EMBASSY WITHOUT HINDERANCE OF GPRB AUTHORITIES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TWMSMITH:BA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770020-0854
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: BENIN COUP ATTEMPT: EMBASSY EFFORTS RE CRO DAVIS
TAGS: CASC, AEMR, PINS, DM, (DAVIS, JOHN)
To: COTONOU LAGOS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
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